

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 H-03 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-13 CU-04 RSR-01 VOE-00 SCA-01

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P R 311353Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO USDA FAS WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7043

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

UNCLAS OSLO 3233

FAS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAINING, FOREIGN DEVELOPMENT DIV ERS/W

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP NO US

SUBJ: VISIT TO US BY NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENTARIAN JOHAN VIKAN

REF: (A) OSLO 3081 (B) FASTO 3 OSLO

1. MR. AND MRS. JOHAN R. VIKAN WILL ARRIVE NEW YORK AT 1505 ON SEPTEMBER 7 (FRIDAY AFTERNOON). THEY EXPECT TO BE MET BY NORWEGIAN UN MISSION AND TO STAY AT BEEKMAN TOWERS.

2. VIKAN NOW REALIZES THAT HE MUST BE AT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY STARTING SEPTEMBER 18, RATHER THAN SEPTEMBER 25. HE HAS THEREFORE CONDENSED CONSIDERABLY HIS TRAVEL PLANS AND WILL CONCENTRATE ON ONE AREA, PROBABLY MINNESOTA. IF FAS COULD MAKE TENTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WITH UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA FOR SUITABLE APPOINTMENTS DURING WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 10 IT WOULD BE HIGHLY APPRECIATED. GIVEN THE SHORTNESS OF TIME, FINAL PLANS WILL STILL HAVE TO BE MADE AFTER VIKANS ARRIVE.

3. SUPPLEMENTING BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION IN COPENHAGEN'S AIRCOMM OF JUNE 26, VIKAN HAS FOR MANY YEARS BEEN A HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL PERSONAGE ON THE AGRICULTURAL SCENE IN NORWAY.

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A 61-YEAR-OLD MEMBER OF THE CENTER PARTY, VIKAN IS FROM

NORTH TRONDELAG AND FIRST ENTERED THE PARLIAMENT (STORTING) IN 1969; HIS REELECTION NEXT MONTH SEEMS CERTAIN. HE GRADUATED FROM THE NORWEGIAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE IN 1939 AND THEREAFTER BECAME INCREASINGLY ACTIVE IN CIVIC AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS WHILE WORKING ALSO AS A FARM MANAGER AND FARMER. MAYOR OF HIS TOWN OF STJORDAL FROM 1952 TO 1956 AND FROM 1960 TO 1966, VIKAN WAS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF MAYORS FOR NORTH TRONDELAG PROVINCE 1963-66. HE HAS SERVED ON THE COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS IN NORTH TRONDELAG, ON THE BOARD OF A PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL, AND ON THE GOVERNING BOARD FOR THE NORWEGIAN WELFARE SYSTEM AT THE DISTRICT AND NATIONAL LEVELS. LONG ACTIVE IN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS, HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE NORWEGIAN FARMERS UNION 1966-69. HE IS ON THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE PARLIAMENT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE A RESPONSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO QUESTION IN REFTEL A AS TO HOW VIKAN CAN ESTABLISH CONTACT, UPON ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK, WITH SOMEONE WILLING TO ADVISE AND ASSIST ON HIS TRAVELS IN US.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973OSLO03233
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973083/aaaaabno.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) OSLO 3081 (B) FASTO 3 OSLO
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <28-Jan-2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO US BY NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENTARIAN JOHAN VIKAN
TAGS: OVIP, NO, US, (VIKAN, JOHAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005